

GA
P300
.m1
1939
P3

RECEIVED

SEP 15 1977

DOCUMENTS
UGA LIBRARIES

4

"THY WOODS AND TEMPLED HILLS"

Georgia's State Parks



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

STATE PARKS OF GEORGIA



Prepared by
The Division of State Parks
Historic Sites and Monuments
OF THE
Department of Natural Resources



CHARLES N. ELLIOTT, *Director*

GEORGIA is rich in scenic and historic values; a region of mountains, plains and sea coast; good roads and hospitable people — You are cordially welcomed to enjoy the State's attractions.

State Parks of Georgia



SPECIAL TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	3
Vogel State Park	5
Fort Mountain State Park	8
Santo Domingo State Park	12
Alexander H. Stephens Memorial State Park	14
Chehaw State Park	17
Little Ocmulgee State Park	20
Indian Springs State Park	22
Pine Mountain State Park	26
Jefferson Davis Memorial State Park	29

State Parks of Georgia

INTRODUCTION

There was a time in the history of our nation when that portion of the South now known as Georgia was a land of unbroken forests, known only to prehistoric races and to the creatures of the wilderness. From the coast and coastal islands to the highlands of Coosa and Itawa no white man had left his mark upon the soil. The valleys were deep and rich, the hill tops virgin and wild.

Centuries have seen the creation and growth of a new empire out of this wilderness—not a mushroom growth, but the slow unvarying march of a civilization which would not be stemmed or checked. Within the course of that progress great and courageous men have lived. Blood has been shed; cities have flourished and disappeared under the heel of time. All have made a contribution to the building of a nation. Today, three million people live and work and play through that once vast wilderness. Cities have grown out of the hills and plains. Fertile valleys and pasture lands lie everywhere; open wooded slopes are dotted with farm houses, the vanguard of a still progressive civilization. Ribbons of steel and concrete highways have appeared to take the place of those first arteries of commerce, the rivers. Droning new ships in the skyways are proof that we have not turned backward, or ceased to grow.

Today, a new vision has appeared on the horizon. There were certain public-spirited men in this generation who realized that unless some action was taken our forests would soon be gone, who recognized that there were certain individuals who made fortunes by exploitation of nature, by robbing the earth of its forest trees, and the soil of its fertility. Through them, over a long period of years, game laws have come into existence, national and state forests have appeared as a basis for a perpetual timber supply, and many of the beauty spots, remnants of those wilderness areas first seen by the founders of our state, saved. Those beauty spots, bought by a few public-spirited men and women and deeded to the ownership of the public have become our national and state parks.

While conservation is the first and primary reason behind the establishment of our original state and national playgrounds, they have also been preserved to commemorate some hallowed or historic site, or to honor some great man who served his country in a magnificent way. They are often made into playgrounds to serve some section of the state or nation.

Although several historic and beauty spots of Georgia had been chosen as state park sites, and were under development by the National Park Service through the aid of the Civilian Conservation Corps, it was not until 1937 that the Georgia State Legislature created a new division of state government whose sole duties consisted of operating and maintaining a park system. This new branch of state government, designated the Division of State Parks, under the Department of Natural Resources, was charged with the responsibility for several activities.

First, was the development of the parks in existence. On the historic parks were established small museums, picnic areas, parking areas, and all conveniences for those persons who wished to see that type of park. Only conveniences, however, were built and all attempts were made to avoid cheapening the glamour and glory that belong to another age. In the recreational and scenic areas, the developments were more elaborate. At many of those areas, through the National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps, lakes for boating, swimming and fishing were constructed; cabins, inns, trails, bridle paths, large picnic areas, with outdoor fireplaces, tables, benches—all were built in an attempt to provide every facility to make visitors comfortable.

Second, came the acquisition of new state park lands in those sections of the state where parks did not exist. The ultimate aim was to provide recreational areas which would be available to every man, woman and child in the state, and within the reach of every visitor to Georgia.

Third, was to list and mark both the prehistoric and historic spots of Georgia in order that students and others interested in Georgia's history could learn more about the unusual and interesting historic background of this state.

In spite of all developments on state parks, the major portion of the areas are kept in virgin wilderness, where not even a trail penetrates, where the trees, the flowers, the forest floor and the wilderness creatures are just as they were the day they were made. Those spots are not advertised. It is the wish of the Division of State Parks that visitors discover them and recognize in them their true worth and value.

The Division of State Parks is also sponsor for three recreational demonstration projects being developed by the National Park Service. These three areas, at Crawfordville, in Taliaferro County; near Rutledge, in Morgan County; and at Pine Mountain in Harris County, are to serve as playgrounds for organized groups. There the children

who play throughout the summer months on crowded city streets, and who would not otherwise have an opportunity to visit the woods, fields and streams of Georgia, will be given a two weeks camp during the summer months, will be taught organized play, organized work and some of the essential elements of social behavior.

The Division is also co-operating with the Vocational Division of the State Department of Education in the erection of a Future Farmers' Vocational Camp in Newton County. To this camp each summer will come thousands of boys from all over the state for a week or two weeks in the out-of-doors.

In addition to its recreational and camp program, the Division of State Parks has undertaken the task of acquiring data on all historic sites already marked, and in further carrying on the program of marking historic sites in the state of Georgia. After the survey has been completed, a map and bulletin will be issued, locating and giving a brief description of each important site.

Georgia has nine state parks at present. These are distributed widely throughout the state from the tidal flats at the mouth of the Altamaha River on the coast to the top of the Blue Ridge at the northern boundary of the state.

VOGEL STATE PARK

Opinions have been expressed that this section of the Blue Ridge is not unlike the soft, blending landscape of the highlands of Scotland. The Appalachian Trail, that blazes a marked foot-trail which extends from Mt. Oglethorpe in Georgia to Mt. Katahdin in Maine and is over two thousand miles in length, runs through Vogel State Park. Visitors to the park area are sometimes a little startled to see a lone hiker or a group of two or three hikers, their clothes wet with perspiration, carrying a pack, come down the trail out of the mountains, pause for a drink at the fountain in the gap and go trudging up the trail into the wilderness beyond. Many of these hikers, weary from nights of sleeping on the ground, stop for a night in the inn or in one of the recently constructed cabins at Vogel Park.

Vogel State Park and its surrounding forests, both private and those within the boundry of the Chattahoochee National Forest, have an abundance of game. Squirrels, wild turkeys and rabbits may be found on the mountain slopes. Quail are abundant in the open valleys. A few years ago, the Cherokee Game Refuge, over twenty thousand acres in extent, was established near Hightower Gap, some twelve miles from the park. Deer were placed on the refuge, and

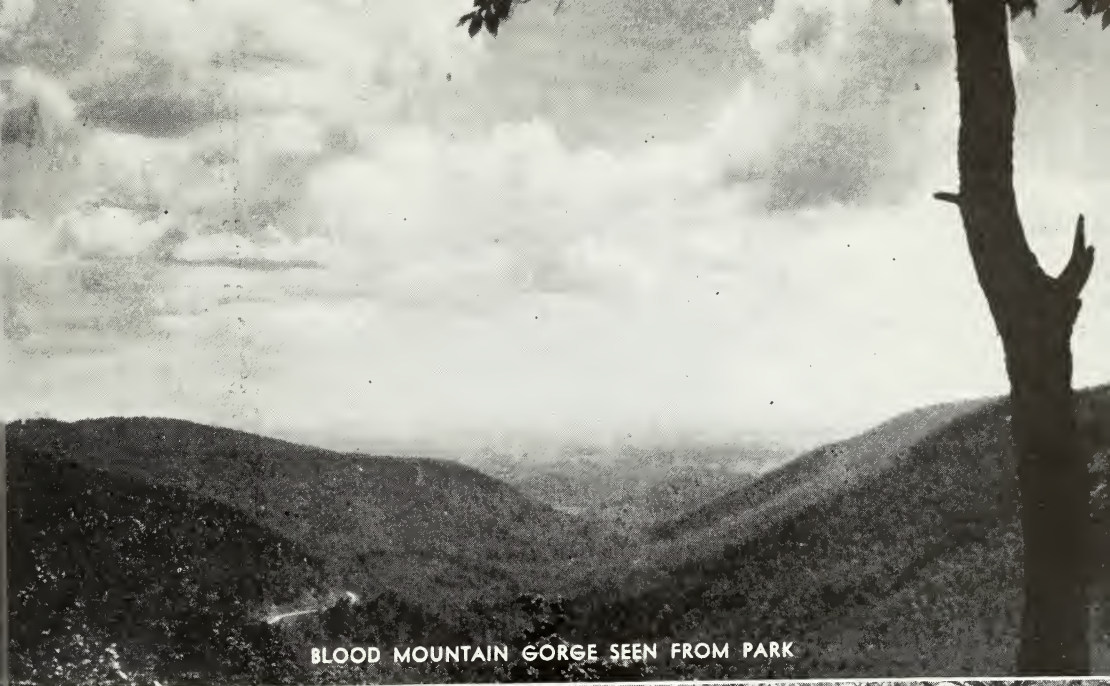
during the years which have elapsed since its establishment have spread into the surrounding valleys and on to the adjoining mountain slopes. Today a keen observer may see one of those wary animals on the wilder portions of the park, just as he may at any time stumble into a flock of wild turkeys, feeding on acorns or chestnuts from the few remaining chestnut trees which have thus far escaped the blight. Recently several deer were turned loose in the Chattahoochee National Forest. Fishermen have already reported seeing these picturesque and interesting animals. Perhaps in a few years one may be assured, on visiting Vogel Park and its environs, of finding a primitive state of nature and mountain wilderness unexcelled in the Southeast.

The gap at this park occupies a strategic position in that part of American history which recalls the irresistible advance of the white man's frontier upon the diminishing hunting grounds of the American Indian. No tribe made nobler efforts to hold their land against this advance than did the Cherokee in seeking to retain their mountain homeland. Voluntary cessions were made until the tribe had receded behind a certain line, and upon this boundary they made their last stand. Two great natural features mark this line—the waters of the Chattahoochee and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Where the two meet at the head of the Chestatee, easternmost headwater of the Chattahoochee, lies Neel (Frogtown) Gap. To this gap, in 1819, a line was surveyed to mark the connection between the two great natural features forming the Cherokee boundry. Upon this line today stands Vogel State Park.

Behind this boundary the Cherokee developed a civilization with a rapidity that has been a wonder of history. The Cherokee, Sequoyah, invented an alphabet by which the majority of his tribe learned to read and write within a few months. A tribal newspaper was published; the Bible was translated and printed in the Cherokee language. Courts were established, and after forming a Constitutional government, modeled after that of the United States, the tribe declared that this boundary set off the Cherokee nation which they declared to be one of the independent nations of the earth.

This advance in civilization gained the admiration of the world, but failed to save the Cherokee homeland. The white man took possession of the land. In 1838, the tribe reluctantly turned its face toward the setting sun as it was removed to the Indian Territory west of the Mississippi.

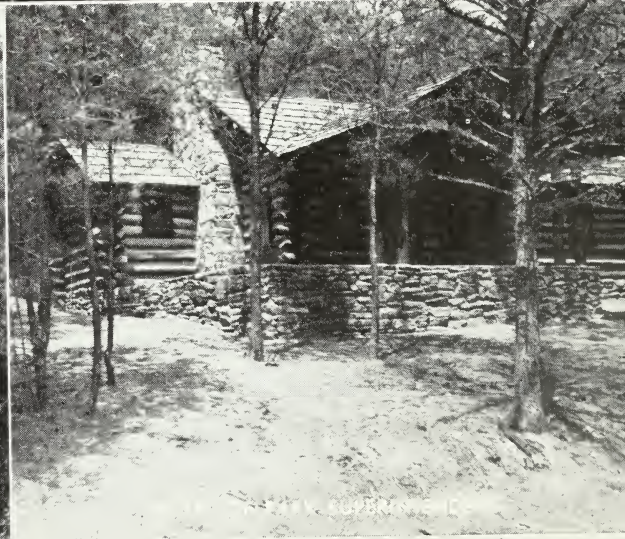
The advancing frontier proved triumphant over the Cherokee homeland. The native inhabitants removed, frontier vigor was di-



BLOOD MOUNTAIN GORGE SEEN FROM PARK



ONE OF SEVERAL WATER-FALLS IN PARK



LOG CABIN AT BLOOD MOUNTAIN



VOGEL STATE PARK



LAKE WITH BATHING AND BOATING FACILITIES

rected toward pushing back the wilderness, so that man's industry might rise in its place. Trees and game fell before the advance. The "Song of the Chattahoochee" became a dirge. At the end of almost a century of exploitation, it has become evident that natural conditions must be preserved and restored, in order that the land of the Cherokee may continue to be of value to the state.

Near the turn of the century, the Pfister Vogel Leather Company of Milwaukee bought almost 65,000 acres of land around what is now Vogel State Park. The forests of this land were acquired to supply tanbark and tanwood for the leather plant in Milwaukee, but shortly after the area was purchased, a synthetic tannic acid was developed and the Blue Ridge Mountain forests were never destroyed. Shortly after 1927, the Vogel brothers donated two hundred and forty-eight acres of land to the state of Georgia as a state park, and the park itself was named after them as an acknowledgement of their generosity.

In 1933, a Civilian Conservation Corps camp was established near the park property. Over a period of several years, picnic areas were developed, a stone inn constructed at Neel Gap, a beautiful forty-acre lake and trails, cabins, bathing and picnicking facilities provided, making this area one of the outstanding recreational state parks in the northern part of Georgia.

In Vogel State Park, many summer visitors find relief in the cool, mountain breezes. They enjoy a vacation with swimming, fishing, hiking and many related outdoor activities in this land of scenic splendor, the last frontier of the Cherokee nation and the new conservation frontier of the South.

FORT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Picture in your mind a steep mountain that rises more than two thousand feet above the floor of the valley, with a summit which is almost inaccessible, but with views of the surrounding country which are unsurpassed in splendor. That is Fort Mountain and Fort Mountain State Park.

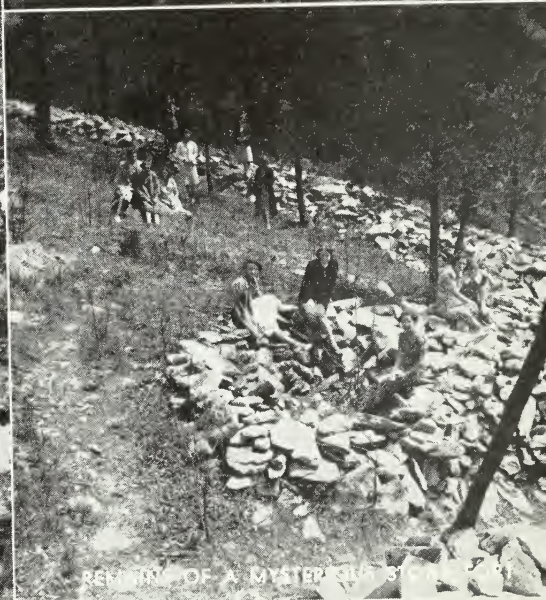
Somewhere behind the dawn of history of the North American continent, some one built a fort around the summit of this fascinating peak. This fort, constructed of stone and laid out according to the most approved methods known to military engineering, is over fifteen hundred feet in length, and in places is twelve feet thick at the base. The existence of such a fortification naturally raises the question among both authorities and laymen as to how, why and when this huge, stone wall was constructed. Some ethnologists have



STONE LOOK OUT TOWER



MAGNIFICENT VIEWS OF SURROUNDING COUNTRY



REHIM OF A MASTER SHOTGUN



FORT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

VIEW OF FORT MOUNTAIN

gone back to the nineteenth annual report of the Bureau of Ethnology, made to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and found that there was a dim but persistent tradition among the Cherokee Indians that a strange race of white people was here when the Cherokees came. Some of the stories about this unknown race went so far as to locate their former settlements, and to identify them as the constructors of some of the ancient mounds and fortifications in this country. They were known to some of the Indians as moon-eyed people, since they claimed that this prehistoric race could not see in the light of day.

In 1897 Barton's report was inclined to consider them of albino origin. Twenty-six years later, Haywood says that their fortifications in this territory extended down the river as far south as Chickamauga Creek, and that here these moon-eyed people entered into a treaty with the Indian invaders to the effect that they would depart from these lands if allowed to go in peace. Today, both the conquered and conquerors are gone, and this fort, on whose designs no modern engineer could improve, stands as a silent memorial to the invasion of the Cherokees of the South.

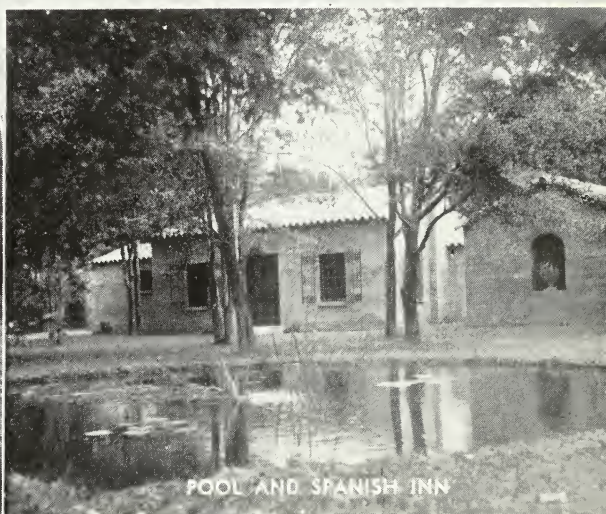
Many interesting stories are told about this old fort, which now lies within the boundaries of Fort Mountain State Park. Perhaps the most common is that De Soto, during his march through this region in 1540, was surrounded by hostile Indians and retreated to the summit of the mountain, where he constructed the stone walls as a means of protection. Another story, which has received some attention, designated the fort as work of British agents who were located at Spring Place during the Revolution. Still another tradition is that a band of desperadoes who infested this country in the early days used this walled enclosure as their base of operations. None of these stories have existing evidence, either written or otherwise, to substantiate them. Yet the fortress remains as it has for countless decades, perhaps centuries, an intriguing mystery.

Today the fort is not more than three feet high in many places, but it is evident that the original fortification was much higher. At regular intervals in the wall are pits, twenty-nine in all. The purpose of these pits is not quite clear, but it is believed that they were used either as battle pits or places in which to build fires, so that enemies crossing the wall at night could be plainly seen and shot down. The gateway, which was closed by large stones, led to a spring which lies almost thirteen hundred feet south of the fort.

The park itself, which contains approximately two thousand acres of land between Fort and Cohutta Mountains, is under development



PALMS WITH BEAUTIFUL SETTING



POOL AND SPANISH INN



SANTO DOMINGO STATE PARK

REMAINS OF OLD BUILDING OF TAHERY CONSTRUCTION



PATIO OF PARK BUILDING

by the National Park Service. The summit of the mountain is accessible over a state highway and graded park road. A stone lookout tower has been constructed on the crest of Fort Mountain, and plans are under way for the construction of a lake, inn, cabins and all conveniences for those who wish to visit this prehistoric spot and speculate on the mysterious stone fort which has come down to us from somewhere in the dim ages.

SANTO DOMINGO STATE PARK

In the South, there have been several eras on which there is no history, because no records were kept. For instance, in the river bottoms along some of our streams we have great earthen mounds. We know that some of these mounds are ancient because in many instances we have found old forest trees growing upon them. Numerous theories about the earthen mounds have been advanced. Some say they were built by a lost tribe of Aztecs who wandered into this region, or by some other adventurous tribe of Indians who came over from Mexico. Some say that they were made by a race of giant men who inhabited North America even before the Indians.

Our written history starts with the exploration of the Spaniards. After the first Spaniards came—DeSoto looking for gold and Ponce de Leon for the fountain of youth—a different type of men and women from Spain followed. They were the home builders who throughout the history of the world have invariably followed the explorers in the acquisition of new territory. With these new settlers came representatives of the government and of the church, soldiers who built fortifications for a defense in this new world and for protection of their towns and villages against the Indians, priests and other representatives of the church who built missions and places of worship. Most of these first villages and settlements were made either on the islands along the coast or on the banks of one of the larger rivers flowing into the sea. This, of course, assured contact between the inhabitants of this new land and their home country, since most of the travel in those days was done by boat and most of the thoroughfares were along the waterways.

Probably the most important missions of the Georgia coast are Santo Domingo de Talaxe, Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe de Tolomato, and Santa Maria. However, only a few facts about these missions have come down to us—their names, the days of occupancy and some few details covering the activities there. The exact locations of the missions have long been a point for much speculation. Probably the foremost reason is the change in names. There are

only a few places along the southeastern coast today which still retain their Spanish names. The Spaniards had their own names for the islands and rivers of the Georgia coast. When the English came many of those names were changed and the Spanish words forgotten in the long years which followed. We have documentary evidence that those missions did exist, although in certain instances we are not quite sure of their exact locations.

Santo Domingo State Park, three hundred and fifty acres in extent, surrounds a spot said by some to be the site of the Santo Domingo mission. This area has been set aside and dedicated to the period of Spanish occupancy on the Georgia coast. For this reason it is one of Georgia's most interesting state parks. It lies on the banks of the Altamaha River in Glynn County, one-half mile west of United States Highway No. 17, on the site of the old Elizafield plantation.

Books and documents have appeared in increasing numbers within the last few years, all seeking to prove that the tabby ruins are those of the Santo Domingo Spanish mission. The ruins are constructed of tabby, which was the same type and kind of material used by the Spaniards in the construction of their first buildings on the Georgia coast. Some historians, however, are inclined to think that they are merely the remains of a sugar mill built in the early days of colonial occupancy. Whatever they are, the tabby ruins commemorate some ancient era of Georgia history.

They are located on the banks of a deep lagoon which is said to have been the mouth of one of the numerous creeks flowing into the Altamaha. Surrounding the ruins is a grove of beautiful trees—live oak, laurel oak, hickory, pine—all hung with tapestries of Spanish moss. Walking along the trails which twist and turn with the shore line of the lagoon under the magnificent forest one cannot help but feel a sense of nearness to his Creator. There is a quiet restfulness which imparts a sense of suspended life among the creatures of the forest. In places picturesque bridges have been built over the lagoon. One gets the impression that these trails are as they might have been in the first days when the Spanish came, and when the Indian village was located on the bluff overlooking the lagoon.

In the glass exhibit cases of the museum there are a number of tools and implements said to be of Spanish origin. There are bronze and iron axes which were dug out of the mud of the lagoon. Lying side by side with these are a number of Indian implements, such as axes, arrow heads, and even part of an old dugout canoe identified by the Smithsonian Institution as of Indian origin.

Many improvements have been made at Santo Domingo State Park. As the site of the old Elizafield plantation, a Spanish inn has been erected. This inn was built of the same type of material and constructed along the same lines of design as were used by the Spanish in the seventeenth century. There are modern improvements, of course, such as water, heat, electric lights, etc. From this inn, trails lead to a picnic area and to other sections of the park.

The history of the old Elizafield plantation is very interesting. The story is typical of that of many other plantations throughout the South. There were slaves and slave quarters, extensive rice and indigo fields, and at one time there was a tabby schoolhouse on the property. One may still see evidences of a lovely old southern formal garden with hollyhock, crepe myrtle and lilac. Santo Domingo State Park lies in the center of the most historic section of Georgia. Nearby is old Fort King George, built in 1721 by the Carolinians and occupied until 1727. On the shores of the Altamaha River above the park is the site of Fort Barrington, built in 1720 and called Fort Howe during the Revolution. On St. Simons Island, near Brunswick, lies Fort Frederica, built in 1736 by Oglethorpe. Near it is the scene of the battle of Bloody Marsh in 1739. Farther up the coast is the dead town of Sunbury, once one of the largest towns in the state, but today it is marked by only a small cemetery and one remaining house on the bank of a deep, salt river winding through the marsh. This section of Georgia was once known as Guale (pronounced "Wally"). This name is supposed to have been applied to an island on the Georgia coast, but it was given by the Indians to the entire section of the Atlantic seaboard. It is interesting, also, to know that all Spanish settlements were abandoned by the year 1702.

We feel that in Santo Domingo State Park has been preserved some of the glory and tradition which was the old South, both in the reputed mission ruins and in the old Elizafield plantation.

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS MEMORIAL STATE PARK

Deep in the heart of the Piedmont region of the South, on the old Georgia Railroad between Atlanta and Augusta, lies Alexander H. Stephens Memorial State Park. This park, more than any other in the state system, was established as a memorial to one of the southern leaders during the days of conflict when the nation was divided against itself.

In 1933, Liberty Hall, the home (and approximately twenty acres) of Alexander H. Stephens, vice-president of the Confederacy,



PARK BATH HOUSE AND LAKE



INTERIOR VIEW OF STEPHENS HOME



ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS MEMORIAL PARK



OBSERVATION TOWER

was controlled by the Stephens Memorial Association. At the advent of the Civilian Conservation Corps this property, with enough additional acreage to bring the park to approximately two hundred and sixty-three acres, was deeded by the citizens of Crawfordville and Taliaferro County, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and by the Stephens Memorial Association to the state of Georgia. It became known as the Alexander H. Stephens Memorial State Park. Since then the park has been completely developed.

Liberty Hall was restored, refurnished and brought back to the original Liberty Hall of Stephens' lifetime. Much of the furniture was collected by Mrs. Horace M. Holden, grandniece of Stephens, and by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and replaced in the home. The few items of furniture which could not be located were replaced with replicas. Even the wall paper and carpets, of which samples had been saved, were reproduced and used in the rooms. The slave quarters, the old gas house, which was one of the earliest artificial light producing plants in Georgia, the wine cellar, and the vegetable and formal gardens have been restored as they were during the life of the Great Commoner. Stephen's library has been almost restored, twelve thousand volumes being donated by Mrs. Holden and Judge Alex W. Stephens, grandnephew of Stephens.

Stephens sleeps in front of the house in the center of a spacious lawn. Beside his grave a monument erected to him bears one of his characteristic poses—that of a great orator. On one side of the monument are engraved words which were typical of the man, "I am afraid of nothing on the earth, or above the earth, or under the earth, except to do wrong. The path of duty I shall ever endeavor to travel—fearing no evil, and dreading no consequences."

One-half mile beyond Liberty Hall, across a small ridge, lies Lake Liberty, a small artificial lake constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. A bath house on the shore of the lake is designed along the lines of the colonial homes built during the period of Stephens. Scenic drives and trails lead back into the wilderness area on the northern side of the park. Picnic areas and shelters are available for large and small groups. Trails for nature students lead into remote regions of the park.

Many interesting stories have been built about the life of Alexander H. Stephens. Probably one of the most interesting is in connection with his lifelong friend, the famous Robert Toombs. Although very good friends, these two men were often on opposite sides of political situations. Frequently during a disagreement, they held heated public debates. It was during one of these debates in

the presence of a large audience that Toombs turned to his friend and said, "You little runt, I could swallow you in one gulp." Stephens retorted instantly, "Yes, you could, and then you would have more brains in your belly than you have got in your head."

Physically, Stephens was a small but energetic man, although the last years of his life were spent in a wheel chair. Never during his lifetime did he weigh over one hundred pounds, but what he lacked in stature, he made up in indomitable courage. It is said that during his lifetime he challenged three men to duels, and one heated argument almost cost him his life when his opponent stabbed him time and time again with a knife, trying to make him yield. His convictions were based on the highest ideals.

Alexander H. Stephens was fond of all living creatures. He was exceedingly fond of his fellow men. He kept a guest room with an outside entrance, so that anyone passing by might stop in and spend the night. They were welcomed to his table if they arrived in time for supper, and they were expected to have breakfast before leaving the next morning. It is said that many persons whom he never saw spent the night in his home. Some were travelers of wealth, and some were tramps, yet they all recognized in the great statesman a friend who would share with them all of his worldly possessions.

Stephens loved dogs and horses. During his lifetime, he had many dogs. One he taught to get the mail and bring packages across the railroad from Crawfordville. When each dog died he was buried in a certain spot in the garden under a stone. The stone pile is still there. Linton Stephens, brother of the Great Commoner, once wrote an epitaph for that pile of stone—

"Here rest the remains

Of what in life was a satire on the human race

And an honor to his own—

A faithful dog."

Today, many thousands of visitors come from all over the United States to see Liberty Hall, the garden which has been replanted in old fashioned flowers and vegetables, the well house and the recreational area. Liberty Hall and its grounds are generally recognized as one of the best preserved examples of its kind in the South.

CHEHAW STATE PARK

In Dougherty County, on the outskirts of the pleasant and attractive city of Albany, lies Chehaw State Park. Chehaw was named after a picturesque tribe of Creeks, whose domain once included most of the Piedmont Plateau and coastal plain of the southern states.

Little exact data are available as to the size of this tribe of Chehaws for whom the park is named. A census taken in 1832 shows that it was composed of one hundred and six members. Today, walking over the open places adjacent to the lake and over the hills of the area, one can visualize the existence of a once vast tribe. Evidences in the form of many kinds of artifacts remain as a mute expression of the culture of a vanished race.

In spite of the fact that this area has long been a source of supply for the collectors, many artifacts may still be found. Here and there an arrowhead, a piece of pottery, or some form of stone implement is a relic of the tribe that lived in this vicinity more than one hundred years ago. Arrowheads, spearheads, tomahawks, hoes, drills and scrapers, clay pipes and stone celts have been found along the banks of one creek and in the neighboring fields. Pottery making was an important activity. A great variety of workmanship has been found which might lead to the belief that several occupations were carried on in the area. Some of the chipped artifacts display excellent workmanship, bearing interesting decorations. Many of them are highly artistic; others are crudely fashioned by their makers and display only the simplest development.

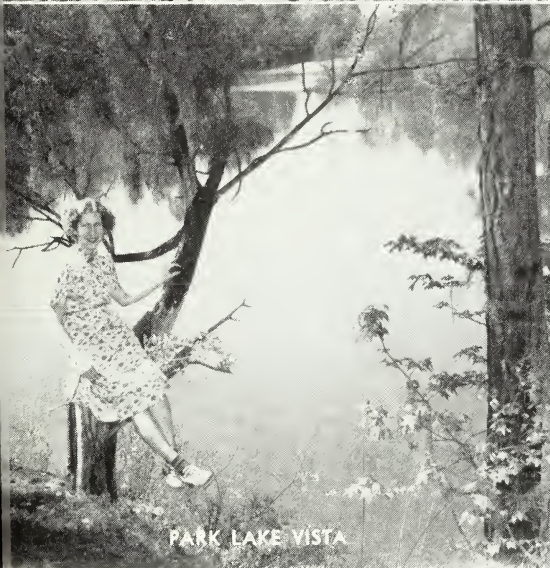
Dr. John R. Swanton, eminent scientist who has devoted considerable time to the study of Indian villages, sites and trails in the vicinity of Chehaw State Park says, "Of course, I have treated the tribe or tribes called 'Chehaw' in Bulletin 73. The first mention of the name is in the DeSoto Chronicles, from which it appears that there was a town of this name on the Tennessee River and probably on Burns Island. They still were there when Pardo passed along the river in 1567, and their name once was given to Tallapoosa River; and there is a creek still called by a form of this name in northern Alabama, or at least so called not so very long ago.

"The people of the Tennessee may have moved into the Upper Creek country. Another section of the tribe, a second tribe so called, lived with or near the Yamasee, and there is a stream in the southern part of South Carolina which bears the name. Later, they moved to the Ocmulgee and then to the Chattahoochee. The Chiaha, or Chehaw, Indians who lived on the site of the present park, separated from those on the Chattahoochee because they were friendly to the whites while the others were hostile. Later, they seem to have gone south into Florida, and probably they were the ancestors of the Mikasauki Indians, at least in part."

This substantiates in part the belief of some who think that the Chehaw tribe of Indians was originally a separate group, not con-



BORDEN OF PARK LAKE



PARK LAKE VISTA



LONGLEAF PINE NEEDLES AND "CANDLES"
BEAUTIFULLY DISPLAYED



CHEHAW STATE PARK

nected in any way with the confederation of the Creek nation. The Bureau of Ethnology points out that the Indian name was "Chiha," and that it closely resembles the word "Chaha," which when translated means "high." That seems to be significant of the fact that earliest record of the Chehaw tribe places it in a country near the mountains of Tennessee.

Possibly three hundred years ago the Chehaws came to lower Georgia to take their place in the Creek nation and were there when the first white men found them. In 1799, Hawkins, one of our historians, tells us of the activities of the Chehaw tribe—"These people have villages on the waters of the Flint River where they have fine stocks of cattle, cows, horses, and they raise corn, rice and potatoes in great plenty. The following are the villages of this town: Aumuc-cul-lee (which means "pour on me") is a creek of that name which joins with the right side of Flint River, forty-five miles below Timothy Barnard's. It is sixty feet wide, and the main branch of Kitch-o-foo-ne creek. The land is poor and flat, with limestone springs in the neighborhood."

These two creeks which the historian of one hundred and thirty-seven years ago mentioned in his narrative are easily identified as Muckalee and Kinchafoonee which run by the park today.

Chehaw State Park is developed around this rich historical background. Roads and winding trails have been built under the pine and hardwood forests and along the shore of the lake. From the bluffs to the shore line is an almost jungle growth of large trees with festoons of hanging moss. A picnic shelter, outdoor fireplaces, tables and benches have been constructed at suitable sites in the park area. A beautiful lagoon lies between the picnic shelter and the lake. This lagoon is full of a variety of fish. Certain portions of the area which were farmed heavily for a great many years have been replanted in trees, and will eventually be restored to an unbroken stand of timber. The park itself will provide opportunities for hiking, boating, swimming, picnicking and nature study, with the historical background of an almost lost tribe of Indians.

LITTLE OCMULGEE STATE PARK

Little Ocmulgee State Park lies near McRae, Georgia, and is one of the scenic areas in that section of the state, with high sand hills, longleaf pine, scrub oak, and deep, dense swamps filled with a variety of trees and other plants. Here again we revert to the history of the Creek Indians for our background. According to Dr. Swanton, the origin of the English term "Creeks" seems to have been traced to a



PARK HEADQUARTERS



ROAD WINDING THROUGH PARK AREA



LITTLE OCMULGEE STATE PARK

PICNIC SHELTER



RUSTIC SEAT DECORATED WITH ANIMATE BEAU

shortening of "O chee se Creek Indians." Ocheese was the old name for the Ocmulgee River upon which most of the Creeks were living when the English first came in contact with them. Ocmulgee means the "bubbling up of water in a spring," and probably refers to the same spring from which the Ocmulgee River got its name, Indian Springs in Indian Springs State Park. Little Ocmulgee was known to the Indians as "Au chee ha chee."

Plans are under way for the construction of a two hundred and fifty acre lake which will lie between the high sand hills, and which will provide swimming, boating and fishing facilities. A beautiful lodge has been completed. Behind the lodge, near a large parking area, is a picnic shelter. Barbecue pits, outdoor fireplaces, and ample benches and tables to accommodate large groups of picnickers have been provided. Trails leading into all sections of the area offer unusual opportunities for study of our middle Georgia wild life. The area abounds in squirrels and birds. Quail, deer and turkey come out of the Ocmulgee swamps and are seen in the park. The park itself is truly recreational and will be open to the public within the next few seasons.

INDIAN SPRINGS STATE PARK

Douglas Watson halted abruptly and stepped out of the game trail he was following. He disappeared so quickly and completely that a squirrel, which had scampered up the opposite surface of the trail-side oak and appeared again at the first branch to scold, stared for a long minute at the spot where he had last seen the white man.

Watson stood like one of the noon-day shadows and watched and listened. Beyond the thicket of canes, he could hear the low murmur of the creek. A few mid-summer birds sang desultory songs in the ancient grove of oaks and hickories on the hill. The summer noon was peaceful and warm and comfortable, as it should have been. No tension, no suspense was in the air.

Douglas Watson was quick to comprehend danger. Many times he had been saved by a broken twig—a footprint in the sand. He avoided that part of the forest where the birds did not sing—that swamp where the tree toads were still. He was a government scout, assigned to this new southern frontier, where the Creek Indian tribe had rebelled against the encroachment on their lands by the white man.

Today, though his ears and eyes told him that all was well along the creek, the scout had been warned by his nose. He had smelled gunpowder smoke!



PAVILION IN PARK



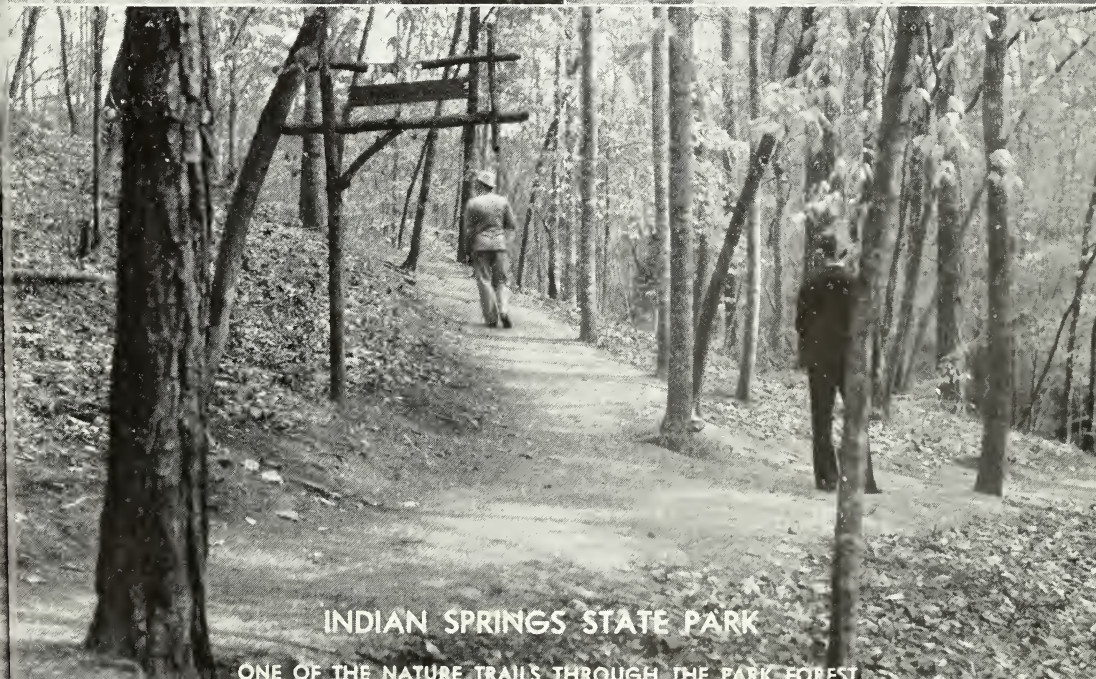
THE FAMOUS SPRING



INDIAN MUSEUM



BRIDGE OVER RIVER



INDIAN SPRINGS STATE PARK

ONE OF THE NATURE TRAILS THROUGH THE PARK FOREST

He stood motionless for many minutes, his eyes probing the lights and shadows of the forest. He was in the middle of the hostile Creek nation. Eagerness for the warpath, which had reached a peak during the recent Revolutionary War, was felt throughout the tribe. Thirty miles or more to the south was Fort Hawkins on the Ocmulgee River. A skirmish here could not hope to benefit the cause of his own state or government.

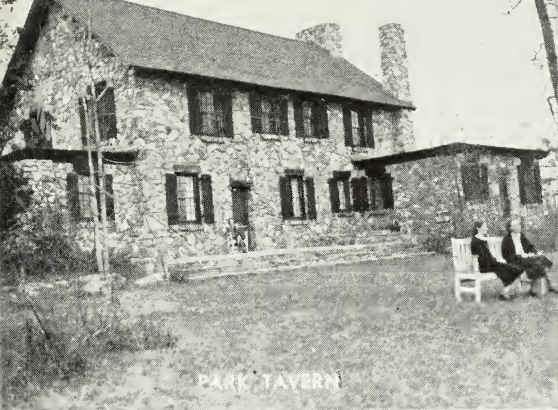
Watson did not return to the game trail. He turned north and west up the hill and made a wide, silent detour around the spot where he had smelled gunpowder.

Later he learned that the smell of gunpowder smoke was really the odor of a cold mineral spring bubbling out of the hillside, and that this spring was held sacred by the Creek people because of its healing qualities. His story is our first record of Indian Springs.

Today that famous spring lies in the heart of Indian Springs State Park. The spring and the ten acres immediately surrounding it have never been in private ownership, but have been reserved by the state of Georgia as a health resort for its people since 1825 when the Creek Indians gave it by treaty to the state. This treaty, known as the Treaty of Indian Springs, was signed near this spot and is remembered as one of the most famous treaties in Indian history. It caused the death of its principal signer, the famous half-breed Creek chief, General William McIntosh, and a disagreement over its validity nearly caused Georgia to have her own private war with the United States government. In the treaty the Creeks ceded the last of their Georgia land.

The old home of General McIntosh still stands. Built about 1820, it is one of the most interesting historic structures remaining to tell the story of the departure of the red man from Georgia. It stands across the highway from the park and is in private ownership; it is visited by many tourists.

Public facilities have been provided for those who visit Indian Springs State Park. Facing the spring house is a large stone pavilion where one may purchase refreshments, or may play, or merely sit quietly and rest. Two large picnic groves, with tables, benches and outdoor fireplaces, contain ample facilities to provide for approximately six hundred persons. Comfort stations are provided near the center of the park. Two large parking areas have been constructed. One may be reached through the north park entrance. The other is located near the museum which is maintained and operated by the Butts County Historical Society. A swimming pool and hotel accommodations adjoin the park.



PARK TAVERN



INTERIOR VIEW OF TAVERN



VIEW OF LAKE



FEEDING WILD GESE ON LAKE



ONE OF THE LOG CABINS



PINE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

STONE BRIDGE IN PARK

Indian Springs is located between Forsyth and Jackson, on the popular paved route between Atlanta and Macon.

The beautiful and historic park is visited by many thousands each year. The virgin hillside is much the same as it was on the day Douglas Watson discovered it. The game trail has been made into a footpath and other picturesque trails have been cut through the forest. A sand beach and children's playground are provided near the creek. Innumerable birds and other animals make nature study a delightful pastime.

PINE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

In the heart of Georgia, far down in the Piedmont Plateau, lies Georgia's southernmost mountain. It is a high wooded ridge, almost fifty miles in length, and in spots it reaches skyward to more than 1350 feet above sea level. The name of this beautiful Georgia ridge is Pine Mountain.

There, one hundred years ago, a stage coach road traversed the mountain at King's Gap, which was one of the famous Indian trail passes of the state. This road was used by early travelers between Hamilton on the south and Bullsboro on the north. At one time the town of King's Gap was a thriving, though short-lived community. A United States post office was located there, and today letters are in existence which bear the postmark of King's Gap. This post office was supposed to have been erected some time during the year 1837, and was a stop-over for the stage coach line which ran from Columbus to Greenville and Newnan.

In the northeast corner of the park, at the foot of the mountain, is the site of an old settlement, which contained a church, a cotton gin, a tanyard, and a gristmill. Power was supplied by a spring which ran from under one of the mountains. When the railroad was built across Pine Mountain, the old town gradually moved nearer the tracks, and the new town was given the name of Hood. Hood was finally abandoned for the more favorable site on which the town of Chipley now stands. The remains of the mill race at the original site of the town of King's Gap, the tanyard vats, and a few ancient gnarled fruit trees are all that is left of the old settlement which flourished in the days of the stage coach.

Geographically, Pine Mountain is as interesting as any spot on the Piedmont Plateau of Georgia. This unusual location affords a commanding view of all the surrounding territory. Pine Mountain may be seen by those approaching it from the north as far away as Greenville, and from the south as far as Columbus. South of Wood-

bury, Pine Mountain and Oak Mountain meet in a complete loop known as the "Cove." Below the Cove, the Flint River has cut a narrow gorge through the range. This gorge is six miles in length and three hundred to four hundred feet deep.

There have been several geological periods in the formation of the rocks at Pine Mountain. The first rocks are said to have been deposited as sediment many millions of years ago in the late Pre-Cambrian period. This period is estimated by geologists to be between 250 and 500 million years ago. At that time an ocean covered the area and the sediments, which were layers of clay and sand, were deposited much in the same manner as they are deposited along the Atlantic coast today. Millions of years passed and this primeval ocean receded. Earthquakes occurred, buckling the clay and sand into sharp folds. During these earthquakes molten granite from within the earth was thrown up into the folded sediments. Severe heat cooked this granite under high pressure, making mica flakes and changing the sand stone into massive beds of quartzite. Within the next few million years the rocks were again subjected to the moving forces of the earth. This was the period of the great mountain making movement, extending from Alabama to Nova Scotia. During this time the Appalachian Mountains were raised to their greatest prominence. In Pine Mountain the rocks were broken into blocks and each block was shoved over its northern neighbor, sometimes moving heavy masses many thousands of feet. A few million more years passed and great sheets of lava boiled out of the earth and poured out of Pine Mountain. At that time the Palisades of the Hudson River were formed. Although no ancient volcanos producing lava are known in Georgia, it is supposed by geologists that they must have once existed. It is interesting to know that this was the period of the dinosaurs, although no dinosaur remains have been found in this state.

Thus was Pine Mountain made. During the millions of years which have elapsed since the last great change in its formation, it has weathered and worn away. Miraculous and numerous changes have been wrought by nature. Today, the barren slopes are clothed with trees and flowers and grass. Clear streams trickle out from under the rocks, and we have Pine Mountain as it is today.

A few years ago, at the beginning of the Civilian Conservation Corps era, a few public spirited citizens acquired and donated over 1500 acres on the crest and both sides of Pine Mountain to the state of Georgia. Two CCC Camps were set up in the vicinity, and work on this middle Georgia playground began.

Pine Mountain State Park was opened to the public in the spring of 1938. A great many facilities and conveniences have been provided for the enjoyment of all those who come to visit it. There are picturesque, winding trails down the slopes and along the streams. There are magnificent ravines choked with laurel and with wild mountain flowers. The crest of the mountain itself, which offers a panorama of magnificent views, is accessible by the new Pine Mountain Parkway, a beautiful road along the mountain top from Tip Top Gap to Warm Springs. On the crest of the ridge is located a large stone inn and four stone cabins. Around the fifteen acre lake on the northern slope of the mountain, seven log cabins, a bathing beach, a picnic shelter and adequate picnicking conveniences are available for those who wish to spend one day, one week, or longer in the state park. On the old trails, amid the grandeur of the scenery, one is sometimes reminded of history that is still in the making. The visitor can usually catch the spirit of ancient King's Gap, of the old Indian burial grounds near the Chattahoochee River, of General McIntosh who was responsible for the ceding of this land from the Creek Indians to the state of Georgia. But the era of conflict is dead. Tustenuggee, Yoholo, and Paddy Carr have moved on and the peaceful state park, lying under the crest of one of the most ancient and divinely created formations remains as a convenience and beauty spot for those who wish to go and commune with the past.

Warm Springs, lying in the town which bears its name, and several miles from the state park, is said to be approximately twenty-five degrees warmer than the other springs in the same area. Geologists have estimated that with a temperature of eighty-seven degrees the water is drawn from a depth of more than six hundred feet below the surface of the earth. Warm Springs is famous for its health-giving qualities. As early as 1825 a tavern was built near this spring. Many guests from all over the South came each year to receive the benefit of the mineral water.

Adjacent to Pine Mountain State Park is the National Park Service Recreational Demonstration Project which includes 3500 acres of mountain slopes. This project will be used by organized camps for boys and girls from towns in that section of the state who would not otherwise be able to have an outdoor vacation.

Pine Mountain Valley Rural Community adjoins the park and can be seen from the mountain crest. It is a model farm area on which hundreds of families have been located and made happy and self-supporting.

JEFFERSON DAVIS MEMORIAL STATE PARK

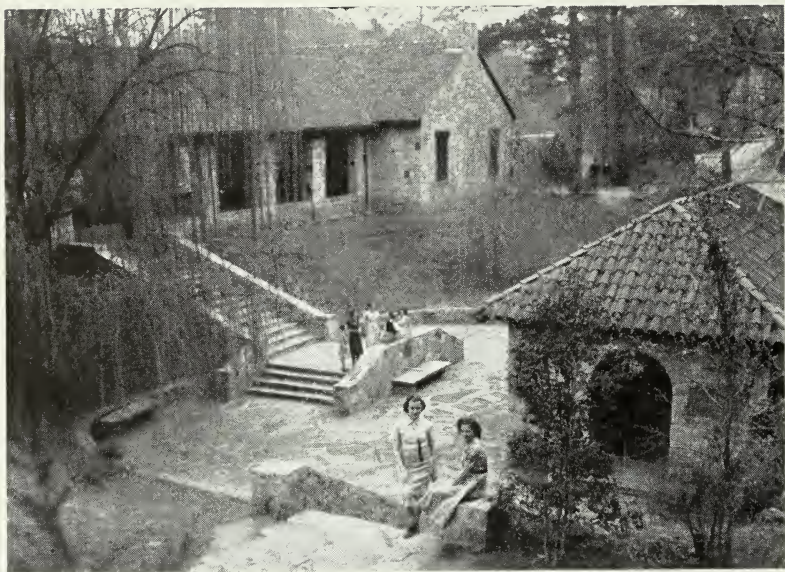
This park, lying near Irwinville, Georgia, is the smallest at present in the Georgia park system. It surrounds and is a memorial to the site where President Jefferson Davis of the Confederate States of America performed the last official duties of his office. Upon this site Davis was captured by Federal troops.

A huge stone marker designates the exact spot of his capture on May 10, 1865, and nearby, another spot where a United States trooper was killed, is also marked. It is said that President Davis was en route from Richmond to the West, where he hoped to rally the army of the trans-Mississippi and save the cause of the Confederacy.

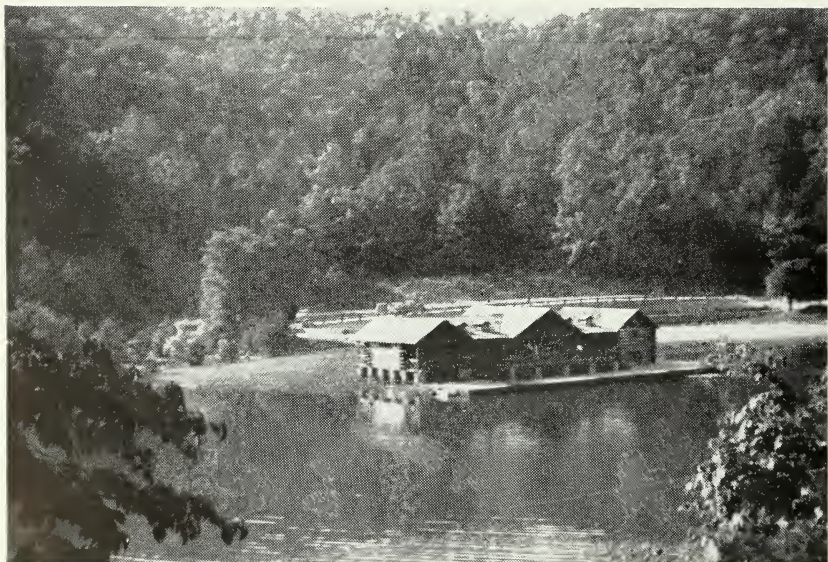
The purpose of the park is to commemorate the ideals of the Confederate States, as exemplified in the person of its Chief Executive, and to perpetuate in the hearts of the people the principles of constitutional government which the Confederate fathers sought to perpetuate. Funds have been provided for the construction of a small museum near the beautiful and ancient longleaf pines of the park. In this museum relics of another period of Georgia's history will be displayed.



Resting Place on a Mountain Trail with Sweeping Mountain Scene in View.



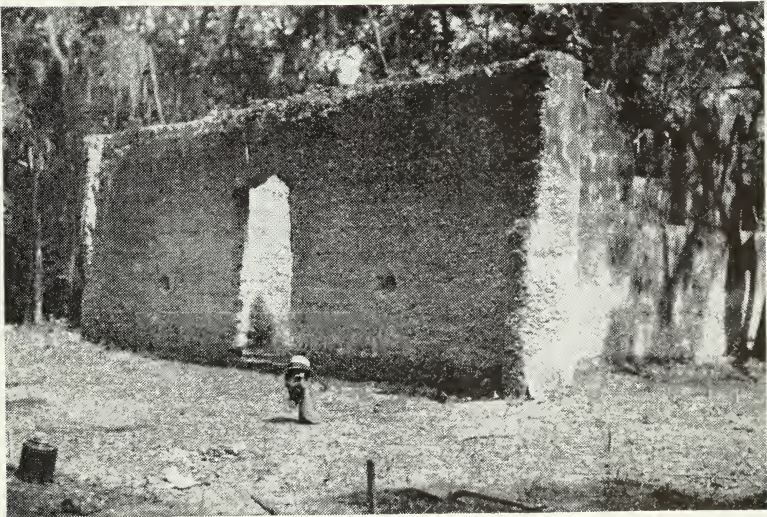
In the building on the right is the famous mineral spring of the Indian Springs Park.



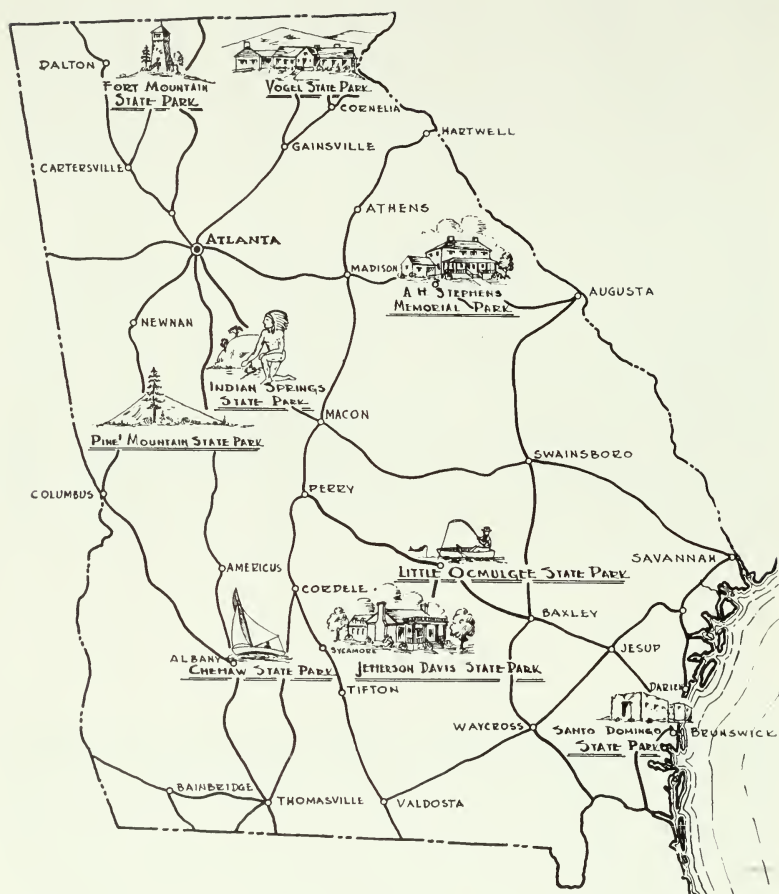
View of the Bathing and Boating House at Lake—Vogel State Park.



One of the log cabins at Pine Mountain State Park with lake in background.



Part of the old ruins believed to be of Spanish mission constructed in the seventeenth century, at Santo Domingo State Park.



Map Showing Locations of State Parks of Georgia.

For further information about Georgia's State Parks and for information about Georgia's historic sites, address Charles N. Elliott, Director, Division of State Parks, State Capitol, Atlanta, Georgia.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA LIBRARIES



3 2108 04090 0154

